

### Remarks

Claims 1 through 8, 15, 16, and 18 through 23 are now pending.

Claim 1 has been amended to present the invention as a tire with a component of a rubber composition comprised of elastomer(s) consisting of specified elastomers and further limiting the organo-metal material of the rubber composition to specific organo-tin compounds.

Amended claim 1 is intended to exclude polyurethane based elastomers.

The election of claims 1 through 8 and 14 through 25 in response to the Examiner's Restriction requirement is hereby confirmed.

### The Rejection

The following U.S. patent has been relied upon to reject various of the Applicants' claims:

<u>U.S. Patents</u>	
3,897,386	Sanda, Jr. (Sanda)

Claims 1 through 8 and 14 through 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanda, Jr., (U.S. Patent No. 3,897,386).

### The Invention

It is important to appreciate that the invention of the Applicants' amended claims is directed to a tire with a component (e.g. a tread) composed of one or more elastomers consisting of at least one of diene-based polymers and copolymers of isoprene and/or 1,3-butadiene and copolymers of isoprene and/or 1,3-butadiene with styrene or alpha methylstyrene together with silica-based material reinforcement and an organo-tin material.

### Discussion

The applied Sanda reference is directed to a tire with a polyurethane tread and polyurethane carcass (e.g. a polyurethane carcass spin cast against a pre-prepared polyurethane tread). The described tread which contains a dibutyltin dilaurate is a polyurethane prepared

from a polyisocyanate rather than a diene-based elastomer. The polyurethane used for the Sanda tread is described as being prepared, for example, with a dibutyltin dilaurate catalyst.

Clearly, Sanda is not directed to a tire with a tread of a diene-based elastomer composition which contains dibutyltin dilaurate. Sanda's only use of a dibutyltin dilaurate is for a catalyst for converting a polyisocyanate to a polyurethane for a tire component (e.g. tire tread).


Clearly, the Applicants' amended claims are not directed to a tire with a polyurethane tread and, indeed, are intended to exclude a polyurethane tire tread.

Accordingly, it is contended that the Sanda reference does not make out a prima facie case of obviousness of the invention of the Applicants' amended claims under the requirements of 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a).

#### **Conclusion**

In view of the amendments made to the claims and comments herein it is contended that the Applicant's amended claims are patentably distinct from the Sanda, Jr. reference.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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